

DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER



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WHAT IS BEHIND THE FENCE?

One of the best-kept secrets in District 1 and the City of Mesa is the Mesa Grande Hohokam mound. This piece of Mesa's history consists of an ancient Hohokam platform mound that was utilized around AD 1000-1400. It is located less than two miles from the Mesa Southwest Museum and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Recently there has been a great deal of activity at the ancient Mesa Grande Hohokam mound. The major project currently taking place is the construction of a new fence around the southern and eastern boundaries of the site. This project is funded through the Quality of Life Funds passed by Mesa voters in 1998, and is part of the continued improvements to the area in and around Mesa's first Opportunity Zone. The fence design includes both block construction and wrought iron. New landscaping also will be installed as part of this project.

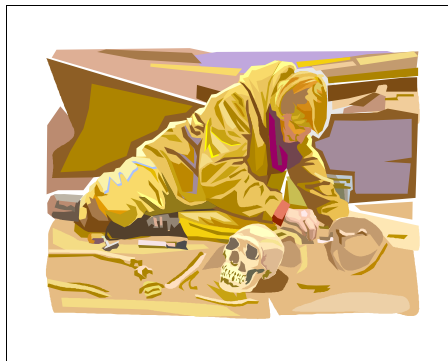
The construction of this fence provided rather unique challenges as they tried to preserve the fragile archaeological remains

along the fence line. Before the construction could begin, a crew of archaeologists from the Mesa Southwest Museum conducted "test excavations" to determine what might be buried in the areas where the fence foundation would go, and found the unexpected. They uncovered two large adobe-like walls in great condition. The walls seemed to surround the mound complex.

The walls of several burned and collapsed rooms and a plastered outdoor plaza floor were also found.

Given the challenges of working around these findings, Supervising Engineering Fred Rustam and his team came up with some

innovative ways to redesign the fence to preserve the archaeological ruins. In the areas containing the ruins they replaced the block wall with sections containing only wrought iron panels. This not only preserved the archaeological remains, it also provides a window area where the public will be able to look through the fence and see what has been uncovered.



Pressure – the right kind of pressure—can be a really good thing.

It has been almost two years since I was asked at a neighborhood meeting if the City of Mesa was going to fix the water pressure problem in Northeast Mesa. It seems residents in the area between McDowell and McClellan roads, and Stapley road and the SRP canal had been experiencing such low water pressure that they

couldn't take a shower and run the washing machine at the same time. Forget about watering the lawn.



I didn't have an answer at that neighborhood meeting because I had just gotten this area in the redistricting process, and was not aware there was an issue. As I

Eureka! It is beautiful!

One hot August morning, more than 60 volunteers donned gloves and dust masks at the crack of dawn in northwest Mesa to start the transformation the south half of the Eureka Canal from a neighborhood eyesore to a multiuse path.

This area was plagued with transients, trash and graffiti for years. Neighbors worried about the children who use the path to walk to and from Westwood High, Carson Junior High and Emerson Elementary schools. The idea of turning this area into a multiuse path came out of the City's Opportunity Zone project in April 2001 and neighborhood residents have been championing it ever since.

"I know the whole long and gory history of the canal," said neighborhood leader Dave Richins. "We're trying to make it into something pretty."

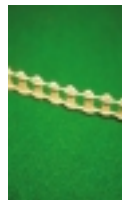
Richins is vice chair of the Mesa Grande Community Alliance, a group of residents who have been working for 10 years to revitalize their neighborhood in northwest Mesa. So they came up with a plan, found funding and donations, and I'm so impressed with the outcome. This is a great example of the extraordinary things that can happen when people get involved.

Contributors and community partners for the project include the Mesa Grande Community Alliance, the City of Mesa Neighborhood Outreach Office, A & A Materials, Arizona Creative Curbing, Banner Mesa Medical Center, Boy Scout Troop 351, C2 Concrete & Grading, Costco Wholesale, Home Depot, Make a Difference, Mesa United Way, Mobile Mix and News Channel 3.

I can't wait to see what they'll come up with next!

BEHIND THE FENCE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Another project in the works is a partnership between Banner Mesa Hospital and the Mesa Southwest Museum. Becky Kuhn, CEO of Banner Mesa, noticed the fantastic view of the Mesa Grande Ruins from the upper floors of the hospital, and has established an information room and display on the 8th floor of the hospital. Museum staff is now completing conceptual plans for the exhibits, which will include artists reconstructions showing how both the mound and the entire valley appeared at the time of the Hohokam. Both the Salt River Project (SRP) and Southwest Ambulance have expressed an initial interest in the project.



The ongoing work at the mound by the Mesa Southwest Museum and the Southwest Archaeology Team is awaiting the completion of the southern fence. They will be back to work in the field in November, and the Archaeological Field School from Mesa Community College will again return to the mound in Spring 2004.

This is exciting stuff, and it is happening in Mesa! Remember it next time you are traveling west on Brown Road – just west of Country Club Drive!

WATER PRESSURE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

pursued the question, I didn't get any good answers. City staff had been trying for years to find a solution, and just couldn't find the budget to fix the problem because the cost was amazingly high, and the problem was compounded by the continued development of new subdivisions. More people were being added to the system, and taking away what little pressure was available to the residents living in this area.

The Utilities Department Manager Dave Plumb agreed to take another stab at the problem and last year hired a consultant who developed the solution by adding two new water pressure zones. The recommendation not only addressed the issues affecting the northeast area, but also some neighborhoods in southeast Mesa between Baseline and Broadway roads, and between Val Vista and Greenfield roads.

What a difference a year makes. In October 2003, residents living between McDowell and McClellan roads, and Stapley road and the SRP

canal can shower, wash clothes and maybe even water their lawns! It took some time – there were a number of delays to ensure the system would work correctly, and there were times I didn't think this project would ever be completed.



The first phase of the project was turned on in October 2003, and I've heard from residents that are singing in their showers again! Additionally, the Mesa City Council recently approved the project's second phase, which will further enhance the new pressure zones. The second phase will include the installation of two booster stations (pumps, tanks and associated pipes) that will allow us to once again use water from SRP, which will be less expensive and more appropriately used in these neighborhoods (both mini-pressure zones are located on SRP Project lands which have a legal right to that water). The booster stations will be located at Chaparral Park and in the retention basin on the NE corner of Val Vista and Pueblo.

Thanks to the neighbors who brought this issue to our attention!

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE CITY'S NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE!

Make plans to attend Mesa's third neighborhood conference on Jan. 31. Make plans to attend *Working Together: Growing Great Neighborhoods*, the Mesa's third neighborhood conference. The fun begins 8 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Mesa Centennial Center, 201 N. Center St. CBS 5 news anchor Jon Du Pre will be the master of ceremonies.

Come out and choose from a wide variety of activities and enjoy refreshments with your neighbors. Whether you're looking to strengthen your skills or want information about becoming more active in your neighborhood, the conference offers something for everyone. Neighborhood leaders will share their success stories in an inspiring keynote presentation.

Attend workshops to learn all about organizing your neighborhood, making your neighborhood safe and attractive, homeowners associations, neighborhood resources, historic preservation and expert

landscape advice for a beautiful neighborhood.

Once again, the conference will feature an expo with displays and information about City and community resources. Get answers to your questions about neighborhood services, utilities conservation, planning division, Arizona Museum for Youth, the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mesa Family YMCA, SRP Turf & Plant Management, The Leadership Centre and more!



Conference registration materials will be available in December. For more information, visit the City of Mesa's Web site at www.cityofmesa.org/neighsvc/conference or call (480) 644-5700.



The Mesa Southwest Museum is proud to present "A T-Rex Named Sue," Jan. 24 through Apr. 18, 2004. At 42-feet long with a skull measuring 5 feet in length, Sue looks pretty good for a 67 million year old! She bears the distinct honor of being the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus rex ever discovered. You won't want to miss out on a once-in-a-lifetime chance to view this prehistoric wonder. "Sue" is one of two replicas made from molds and casts of the original Sue that resides in the Field Museum. This exhibit was created by the Field Museum, Chicago, and made possible by the generosity of the McDonald's Corporation. For more information call 480-644-4040 or e-mail cynthia.diaz@cityofmesa.org. The Mesa Southwest Museum--the place for dinosaurs and more-- is located at 53 N. Macdonald Street. For recorded information on general museum hours, admission and location call 480-644-2230.

Merry Main Street coming December 5!



This is the East Valley's biggest annual holiday celebration! Come and enjoy Mesa's award-winning holiday celebration, food vendors and Main Street

restaurants, plus a visit from Santa, and musical entertainment from around the world! Admission is free... it all happens on Main Street in downtown Mesa, between Country Club and Center. For more information, call 480-644-EVENT. The fun happens Friday, December 5, 2003 from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Join us in Downtown Mesa between Country Club Drive and Center Street along Main Street.

Museum for Youth going to the dogs!



Calling all canine fans! The Arizona Museum for Youth is celebrating man's best friend in a visual exploration of our companions and their representation in art in a variety of forms. **BowWOW!! Dogs in Art** opens **Saturday, Nov. 22** and will run through May 21, 2004.

This heart-warming exhibition combines exceptional artworks with amazing programming that highlights everything from dogs in clothes—"Dapper Dogs" (with works by: William Wegman, Robert Brubaker) to those pups of the periphery of dog society, the "Divergent Dogs" (with works by: Harry Fonesca, Esmerelda DeLaney.) Over 40 works by 32 artists will be featured in this exhibition.

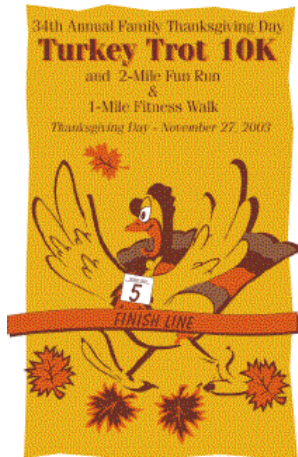
The AMFY is located at 35 N. Robson, Mesa. Admission is \$3.50 per person two years and older.



Please visit the Web site at www.arizonamuseumforyouth.com for more information or call 480-644-2467.



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CITY OF MESA EVENTS!

The following events are happening in Mesa over the next few months. Drop in—we'd love to see you.

- **Third Annual All-Media Exhibit.** Featuring contemporary work of community artists. Exhibit now open through January 8, 2004. Mesa Contemporary Arts, Mesa Arts Center, 155 N. Center Street.
- **Turtles: Origins to World Domination.** Exhibit curated in-house as part of the Mesa Southwest Museum's Traveling Exhibits program. Exhibit now open through April 18. SW Museum, 53 N. Macdonald. 
- **Dawn till Dawn: Past, Present and Possible Future.** Landscape photo-realism paintings of Craig Cheply. Exhibit now open through January 11, 2004. Mesa SW Museum, 53 N. Macdonald.
- **Native American Appreciation.** Experience the SW Native American music, dance and weaving demonstrations. Saturday, November 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission is free. Serrine House, 160 N. Center.
- **A Victorian Christmas in Candlelight.** Bring the family to enjoy an old fashion holiday. Refreshments with 19th Century Christmas activities for children, and candlelight tours of the Serrine House. Friday, December 12, 2003 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Serrine House, 160 N. Center. 

- **Veteran's Day Parade.** Annual parade featuring veteran's organizations, bands and schools. Tuesday, November 11, 2003 at Mesa Town Center, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Family Thanksgiving Turkey Trot.** Arizona's oldest annual 10K run, open to runners of all ages. Event includes a two-mile Fun-Run and a one-mile fitness walk beginning at 8:30 a.m. 10K run begins at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 27 at Red Mountain Park, 7745 E. Brown Rd. Please call 480-644-2984 for more information.
- **Fun & Games of Long Ago.** Bring the kids to learn about traditional games such as hoop races, marbles, tops and much more. Saturday, January 10, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Serrine House, 160 N. Center.
- **Historic Home Tour.** Take a tour of Mesa's most unique historic homes, in this popular annual tour. \$15 per person, presented by the Mesa Historical Society. Please call 480-835-7358 for more information. Saturday, January 17, 2003 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 
- **Territorial Day Festival.** This festival features demonstrations including needlecraft, spinning, blacksmithing, and much more. Saturday, February 7, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Serrine House, 160 N. Center Street.

